trends

ASSOCIATION OF
AMERICAN RAILROADS
OFFICE OF INFORMATION AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WASHINGTON, April 23, 1981 -- Freight traffic on major U.S. railroads during the week ended April 18 totaled an estimated 15.5 billion ton-miles, 11.6 percent below the corresponding week a year ago, the Association of American Railroads reported today. The sharp decline was again attributable to the impact of the United Mine Workers' strike.

Cumulative volume for the first 16 weeks of 1981 was an estimated 283.1 billion ton-miles, 0.4 percent lower than the comparable period of last year.

Carloadings in the week ended April 18 totaled 367,881 cars, 18.3 percent below 1980, and 3.0 percent lower than the preceding week of this year. Compared with last year, loadings were down 35.3 percent in the East, 12.5 percent in the South and 9.3 percent in the West.

Compared with the corresponding week of 1980, 16 of the 21 commodity groups were down. Coal loadings were off 55,364 cars, or 47.8 percent. Eighteen of the 21 groups were down from the preceding week of this year.

Piggyback

The AAR also reported that piggyback freight traffic on major railroads during the week ended April 11 totaled 33,169 cars, up 7.1 percent from the corresponding week of 1980, and 60,484 trailers and/or containers, up 5.6 percent from last year.

The cumulative volume of TOFC/COFC traffic for the first 15 weeks of the year was 479,964 cars, 4.5 percent lower than last year, and 870,042 trailers and/or containers, down 4.6 percent.

(more)

Following are carloadings of major railroads, by commodity groups, for the week ended 4/18/81:

	Loadings in Week ended April 18, 1981		Change from Corresponding Week 1980			Change from Preceding Week	
	Cars		Cars	Percent		Cars	Percent
Grain	21,824	D	7,295	25.1	D	2,575	10.6
Other farm products	3,714	I	209	6.0	D	6	0.2
Metallic ores	30,377	D	1,094	3.5	I	2,564	9.2
Coal	60,552	D	55,364	47.8	I	1,632	2.8
Crushed stone, gravel and sand	13,972	I	396	2.9	D	462	3.2
Nonmetallic minerals	13,855	D	1,223	8.1	D	15	0.1
Grain mill products	13,709	D	3,077	18.3	D	761	5.3
Food and kindred products	14,968	D	2,643	15.0	D	712	4.5
Primary forest products	18,924	I	431	2.3	D	483	2.5
Lumber and wood products except furniture	9,205	I	1,276	16.1	I	165	1.8
Pulp, paper and allied products	19,394	D	1,021	5.0	D	256	1.3
Chemicals and allied products	27,478	D	132	0.5	D	290	1.1
Petroleum products	4,496	D	1,280	22.2	D	754	14.4
Stone, clay and glass products	14,071	D	1,825	11.5	D	1,046	6.9
Coke	5,655	D	692	10.9	D	653	10.4
Metals and products	16,372	D	2,088	11.3	D	872	5.1
Motor vehicles and equipment	17,084	D	745	4.2	D	1,788	9.5
Waste and scrap materials	12,555	D	1,716	12.0	D	1,404	10.1
Forwarder and shipper association traffic	10,191	D	745	6.8	D	688	6.3
All other carloads	39,269	D	3,804	8.8	D	3,025	7.2
LCL traffic	216	I	29	15.5	D	17	7.3
Total Cars Loaded	367,881	D	82,403	18.3	D	11,446	3.0
Corresponding week of 1980	450,284						

	1981	1980	% Change	
Total Cars Loaded (16 weeks)	5,765,072	7,054,379	D	4.1
Estimated revenue ton-miles (in billions):				
15 Weeks cumulative	267.6	266.6	I	0.4
Week ended April 18	15.5	17.5	D	11.6
16 Weeks cumulative	283.1	284.2	D	0.4

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